



Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing Board News...

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The mission of the Board of Registration in Nursing is to *lead* in the protection of the *health, safety and welfare* of the citizens of the Commonwealth through the fair and consistent application of the statutes & regulations governing nursing practice & nursing education

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RN/NP

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Advisory Ruling on Nursing Practice. The Board, at its January 9, 2008, meeting, issued its Advisory Ruling on the Initiation and Withholding of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation in Massachusetts Long-term Care Facilities with 24-hour Skilled Nursing Staff on Duty (Advisory Ruling). The Board's new setting-specific Advisory Ruling is based on the American Heart Association (AHA)'s 2005 Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care (Guidelines) and incorporates some of the assessment criteria used by the Massachusetts Office of Emergency Medical Services. It is intended to guide the decision making of the Registered Nurse (RN) and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) who practices in a Massachusetts long-term care facility with 24-hour skilled nursing staff on duty when a patient or resident ("patient") experiences a cardiac arrest. For addition information including the full Task Force report, please visit www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn > NURSING PRACTICE.

The Board revises its 1999 opinion on Vagal Nerve Stimulator. The Board, at its April 9, 2008, meeting, issued its Advisory Ruling on Nursing Practice related to the Use of the Vagal Nerve Stimulator Magnet in the School Setting (Advisory Ruling). The Advisory Ruling outlines the Board's expectations of the nurse working in a school setting where a student(s) may have a Vagal Nerve Stimulator (VNS) for seizure management. The Advisory Ruling makes it clear that the swiping of the magnet is not a nursing function and does not require nurse-delegation. For complete information and to review the Advisory Ruling go to www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn > NURSING PRACTICE > ADVISORY RULINGS ON NURSING PRACTICE.

Board Elections are held. The Board, at its June 11, 2008, meeting, held its annual election for officers. Diane Hanley, RN, MS was re-elected as Chairperson, and Janet Sweeney Rico, RN/NP was also re-elected as Vice-Chairperson. Congratulations to them both!

Reminder! No Graduate Nurse Status. The state law permitting nursing practice by graduate nurses was repealed in Spring 1994. Both employers and soon-to-be nurses are reminded that in order to practice as either a Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse in Massachusetts you are required to hold a current, valid license issued by the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing (Board). As a result, it is illegal to practice nursing in Massachusetts as a "graduate nurse". This includes being hired into a Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse job, starting orientation/perceptorship, or performing any activities that requires a valid nurse license, regardless of what the job title

may be called. You are permitted to work in any role that does not require nurse licensure.

Request for volunteers. The Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program (SARP), of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing (Board) is seeking volunteers; nurses and members of the public with experience in substance abuse recovery to participate on the Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Evaluation Committee (SAREC) for a site at Tewksbury Hospital.

Currently the SAREC meets in Boston, Plymouth and Holyoke. Beginning in June 2008 SAREC started holding monthly meetings at Tewksbury Hospital. With this expansion, new volunteers; nurses and members of the public with experience in substance abuse and /or mental illness are being sought.

In 1989, the Board established a rehabilitation program to assist nurses whose competency was impaired by the use of, or dependence on alcohol and/or other drugs to return to nursing practice. SARP is a five year abstinence-based program designed to protect the public health and safety by establishing adequate safeguards to maintain professional standards of nursing practice while monitoring and supporting participants' ongoing recovery and their return to safe nursing practice.

The rehabilitation program provides assistance to nurse participants by developing and monitoring individualized substance abuse recovery treatment plans. SARP serves as a voluntary alternative to the Board's complaint resolution process, provided the nurse cooperates with the recommended treatment program and fully complies with the requirements of the SARP treatment contract and with monitoring of his/her continued abstinence from all substances of abuse until the program is successfully completed.

For more information about volunteer opportunities with SARP please feel free to contact Valerie Iyawe at 617-973-0904 or Doug McLellan at 617-973-0931.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Titles. Recently the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) notified each Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) who holds certification from them as a Nurse Practitioner (NP) or Psychiatric Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist (PC) that their credentials have been changed and directed them as to how they should be abbreviated. Additionally, ANCC advised the APRN to check with their state board of nursing for further directions. The Board requires all APRNs to sign all legal documentation with their name and credentials as it appears on their paper license (i.e. RN/NP or RN/PC). The use of titles and credentials bestowed by ANCC are professional in nature and may or may not be used on professional communications such as business cards and letterhead.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Authorization to Practice as an APRN. APRNs not wishing to renew their APRN status must notify the Board in writing so that a revised renewal coupon can be mailed to you before your RN expires.

Current Address Requirement. Be certain the Board has your most current address on file. Without it your license renewal coupon will not be forwarded to you by the postal service.

Continuing Education. The RN license renewal year is half over and the LPN renewal year begins January 1, 2009. All nurses renewing their license are expected to have earned 15 contact hours of continuing education prior to submitting their renewal coupon.

Important Safety Notice. The February 2008 Community/Ambulatory Care newsletter of the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) reports that **T1D** (letter T, number 1, letter D) a potentially dangerous abbreviation for "type 1 diabetes" is cropping up in the literature. ISMP is advising that it **not be used** on prescriptions to avoid it from being misunderstood as **TID** the abbreviation for three times daily.

Nursing Capacity Summit. The U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Center to Champion Nursing in America, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration sponsored the Nursing Education Capacity Summit, in Washington, D.C. on June 26 and 27, 2008. Participating were 18 states including Massachusetts. Participating on the Massachusetts team was Judith Pelletier, RN, MSN, Nursing Education Coordinator for the Board.

After reviewing 49 applications, in a competitive team selection process, the 18 state teams were invited to attend. The state teams included: California, Maryland, Virginia, Oregon, Texas, Alabama, North Carolina, Mississippi, Massachusetts, North Dakota, Wisconsin, South Carolina, Florida, Hawaii, Colorado, Michigan, Illinois, and New Jersey. States were invited to assemble a team and submit a Letter of Application to attend the Summit. States were selected based on the quality and depth of the applications.

Nationwide, many college and university nursing programs do not have the physical space, faculty, clinical resources, or funds to enroll and educate the numbers of students needed to meet future nursing demands. The Summit addressed these critical issues by providing a forum for participants to share best practices, learn about innovative strategies, and develop solutions-based approaches.

The Nursing Education Capacity Summit focused on four key aspects of increasing nursing education capacity: 1) Strategic Partnerships and Resource Alignment; 2) the Role of Policy and Regulation; 3) Increasing Faculty Capacity and Diversity; and 4) Education Redesign.

Follow up to the summit is being planed at this time.

NCLEX ® Test Plan Online. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) now provides the new "RN Test Plan" online at www.ncsbn.org. In the Test Plan, provisions are made for examinations reflecting entry-level nursing practice as identified in an empirical analysis of activities of newly licensed nurses. The activities identified in these studies are analyzed in relation to the

frequency of their performance, their impact on maintaining client safety, and the settings where they were performed. These analyses guide the development of a framework for entry-level nurse performance that incorporates specific client needs, concepts and processes fundamental to the practice of nursing.

National of State Boards of Nursing seeks Volunteers. Development of the NCLEX-RN ® and NCLEX-PN® licensing examinations utilizes contributions from hundreds of nurse educators, clinicians and managers who work with entry-level nurses. Volunteers are selected for three types of panels:

- Item Writing - Item writers create the items that are used for the NCLEX examination.
- Item Review - Item reviewers examine the items that are created by item writers.
- Panel of Judges - The panel of judges recommends potential NCLEX passing standards to the NCSBN Board of Directors.

If you are interested please apply:

- Online at www.ncsbn.org, or
- Call the NCSBN Item Development hotline at 312.525.3775; leave your name and address, and an application will be sent to you.

Reminder: LPNs who plan to take the NCLEX-RN ® examination within two years of service with NCSBN do not qualify for participation.